

## CLAIMS:

1. A cutaway garment comprising:
  - a front portion having a torso portion, spaced-apart shoulder portions, and opposite side portions;
  - a rear portion having a torso portion, spaced-apart shoulder portions, opposite side portions, and a cummerbund portion;
  - a plurality of loops for releasably attaching said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said front portion to said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said rear portion, said side portions of said rear portion to said rear portion, and an end of said cummerbund to said rear portion; and
  - a handle attached to a plurality of cables, said plurality of cables operable to pass through said loops to attach said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said front portion to said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said rear portion, said side portions of said rear portion to said rear portion, and said end of said cummerbund to said rear portion, and wherein removal of said plurality of cables allows cutting away of said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said front portion from said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said rear portion, said side portions of said rear portion from said rear portion, and said end of said cummerbund from said rear portion.
2. The cutaway garment of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of rings, and wherein said loops are passable through said rings to attach said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said front portion to said spaced-apart portions of said rear portion, said sides of said front portion to said rear portion, and said one end of said cummerbund to said rear portion.
3. The cutaway garment of claim 1 wherein said plurality of cables comprises four cables, two for engaging said loops on said shoulder

portions of said cutaway garment, and two which extend over said shoulder portions to said rear portion of said cutaway garment to engage said side portions of said rear portion of said cutaway garment and said end of said cummerbund.

4. The cutaway garment of claim 1 further comprising a pair of sleeves and wherein each of said shoulder portions of said rear portion comprises two flaps releasably attachable to said pair of sleeves.
5. The cutaway garment of claim 1 wherein each side portion of said rear portion comprises three of said plurality of spaced-apart loops.
6. The cutaway garment of claim 1 wherein said cummerbund comprises two spaced-apart loops.
7. The cutaway garment of claim 1 wherein one of said side portions of said rear of said cutaway garment comprises three of said plurality of spaced-apart loops, said cummerbund comprises two of said plurality of spaced-apart loops, and wherein one of said plurality of cables passes through said loops of said one of said side portions and said loops of said cummerbund.
8. The cutaway garment of claim 7 wherein said side portions of said rear panel releasably attach to said front portion during normal use.
9. The cutaway garment of claim 1 wherein said plurality of loops comprises overlapping webbing material.

10. The cutaway garment of claim 9 wherein said overlapping webbing material is attached at a plurality of spaced-apart locations to provide adjustment of the size of said cutaway garment and said cummerbund around a wearer.

11. The cutaway garment of claim 1 wherein said handle is interchangeably disposable on one of a right side and a left side of said front portion of said cutaway garment.

12. The cutaway garment of claim 1 wherein said cutaway garment comprises at least one of a tactical load bearing vest and a body armor vest.

13. A cutaway garment comprising:

a front portion having a torso portion, spaced-apart shoulder portions, and opposite side portions;

a rear portion having a torso portion, spaced-apart shoulder portions, opposite side portions, and a cummerbund portion;

a plurality of loops and rings for releasably attaching said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said front portion to said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said rear portion, said side portions of said rear portion to said rear portion, and an end of said cummerbund to said rear portion;

a handle attached to a plurality of cables, said plurality of cables operable to pass through said loops to attach said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said front portion to said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said rear portion, said side portions of said rear portion to said rear portion, and said an end of said cummerbund to said rear portion, and wherein removal of said plurality of cables allows cutting away of said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said front portion from said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said rear portion, said side portions of

said rear portion from said rear portion, and said end of said cummerbund from said rear portion;

said plurality of cables comprises four cables, two for engaging said loops on said shoulder portion of said cutaway garment, and two which extend over said shoulder portions to said rear portion of said cutaway garment to engage said side portions of said rear portion of said cutaway garment and said end of said cummerbund; and

a pair of sleeves and wherein each of said shoulder portions of said rear portion comprises two flaps releasably attachable to said sleeves, each of said sleeves comprising one of said plurality of loops.

14. A cutaway garment comprising:

a front portion having a torso portion, spaced-apart shoulder portions, and opposite side portions;

a rear portion having a torso portion spaced-apart shoulder portions, opposite side portions, and a cummerbund portion; and

means for cutting away said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said front portion from said spaced-apart shoulder portions of said rear portion, said side portions of said rear portion from said rear portion, and a portion of said cummerbund from said rear portion.

15. The cutaway garment of claim 14 further comprising means for releasably attaching said shoulder portions during normal use.

16. The cutaway garment of claim 14 further comprising means for releasably attaching said side portions of rear portion to said front portion during normal use.

17. The cutaway garment of claim 14 wherein said cutaway means comprises a pull cord.

18. The cutaway garment of claim 14 wherein said cutaway means comprises a pull cord having a plurality of cables.

19. The cutaway garment of claim 14 wherein said cutaway means comprises a plurality of loops.

20. The cutaway garment of claim 14 wherein said cutaway means comprises a plurality of rings.

21. The cutaway garment of claim 14 further comprising means for adjustably sizing said cutaway garment and said cummerbund around a wearer.